enhanced the central assistance for non-recurring expenditure and made a provision for an additional amount of Rs. 8.60 lakh per court being given to the States for the first two years after 31.3.2005.

Central assistance to the States under the scheme is provided on the basis of the approved norm *i.e.* Rs. 4.80 lakh per court per annum towards the recurring expenditure. Some of the States have reported expenditure in excess of the assistance provided to them.

There is no proposal at present to increase the rate of Central assistance to the States for the Fast Track Courts.

High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram

1713. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL :
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has been demanding, for a long time the establishment of a Bench of Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of that State;

(b) whether Government is aware that advocates of that city have been on an indefinite strike for more than a year on this demand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government on this demand?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has received reports that the advocates of that city have been agitating for the establishment of a High Court Bench at Thiruvanthapuram.

(c) The Governor of Kerala has recommended establishment of a Bench of the Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. However, the then Chief Justice of Kerala High Court had intimated that the High Court does not approve the establishment of such a Bench as it is not suitable or feasible. Should the High Court be agreeable to change its stand, the matter would be reconsidered.

Corruption in judiciary

1714. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring a legislation to tackle issues relating to accountability and corruption in the judiciary;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received a large number of representations in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and